

# The News - Banner

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THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## Local law enforcement prepares for eclipse travel

**By JONATHAN SNYDER**  
Wells County is expected to see an influx of traffic and tourists thanks to the solar eclipse on April 8. In an interview with the News-Banner, Sheriff Scott Holliday shared how the Sheriff's Department will react to the potential

increased traffic, some of the cooperation between Wells and other surrounding counties and some things to know about eclipse preparation. Holliday noted that there is not much data to base travel estimates. Because of this, the Sheriff's Department is taking a mindset of

preparing for the worst-case scenario. "It's kind of like planning for ... a big snowstorm," Holliday said. "And it could be anywhere from five inches to 12 inches, and you don't know. So we plan best we can." Deputy James Agler mentioned

that even though the official number is not confirmed, he expects nine deputies will be on-call that day. Other cities in Wells have also have an increased amount of officers on the eclipse day. Bluffton Mayor John Whicker noted that every officer available will be

on call. Markle Operations Manager Mike Grant said Huntington County was willing to send some of their officers to help out with any traffic issues for Markle. The Wells County Sheriff's Office Facebook page notes that citizens should allow extra time for travel (Continued on Page 2)



**Pathways go vertical**

Pictured above, concrete is being put down on the West Washington Street alley, next to American Legion Post 111. Screens with nature designs are being installed in the other alley, on the North 200 block of West Market Street. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## Imagine Early takes first steps with new director

*New organization seeks to increase childcare access in Wells, Adams counties*

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
A new early childhood education coalition has hired its first executive director to get operations off the ground. Last year, both Wells and Adams county governments pledged \$25,000 for Imagine Early's pilot year. The organization seeks to address childcare needs within both counties, particularly by giving a local touchpoint for information. In making its financial request to the Wells County Commissioners, board members Chad Kline and Jessica Bricker said hiring an organization director was one of their priorities. This past February, the board announced Ashleigh King of Bluffton would be taking the helm. While a Virginia native, King has called Wells County home for over 20 years. Most recently, she worked at Family Centered Services for five years. "With Imagine Early's new leader, we are one step closer to ensuring that every child in our region has access to high-quality early childhood education," said Allie Sutherland of the Northeast Indiana Regional Early Childhood Coalition in a press release. "Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of our youngest learn-

ers." Different than some early learning initiatives, Imagine Early is not tied to a parent organization or foundation. Subsequently, King plays a key role in building things from the ground up, including incorporating Imagine Early.



Ashleigh King

King is also working on becoming acquainted with childcare requirements, certifications, programs, grant opportunities and more. While there's no guidebook for such a unique situation, King said she's said she met with coalition leaders in other counties to pull from their experience and start-up knowledge. The goal is for King to be a point person about local childcare needs in Wells and Adams counties, creating relationships with businesses, public officials and childcare providers. King will also spend a large portion of her time facilitating paths toward improvement and growth for local childcare (Continued on Page 2)



Republican candidates U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and Eric Doden debate on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. (Screenshot of FOX59/CBS4 livestream)

## Gubernatorial candidates go on offense, highlight signature policies in second debate

**By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑIZ**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Four GOP candidates for governor made time to call each other out while highlighting signature campaign planks during a Tuesday evening debate. U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, Brad Chambers, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and Eric Doden traded jabs in front of the cameras at the event, hosted by FOX59/CBS4. Two other candidates didn't make the cut. The debate featured queries aimed at specific campaigns sandwiched in between nine questions for the whole group. The candidates graded Gov. Eric Holcomb's time in office, pledged to maintain in-vitro

fertilization access and weighed in on marijuana. It concluded with a round of light-hearted rapid-fire questions and closing statements. **Going after Braun** Multiple gubernatorial candidates knocked Braun — the only candidate with congressional experience — for national immigration woes. Braun has held his post in the U.S. Senate since 2019; before that he served in the Indiana House of Representatives. Asked if they'd send Indiana soldiers to the U.S.-Mexico border should a reelected President Donald Trump request it, all four said they would. (Continued on Page 2)

## Officials propose new high school diplomas for Hoosier students

**By CASEY SMITH**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A proposal to streamline Indiana's high school diplomas and reduce options to just two primary graduation paths was announced by state education officials on Wednesday. The plan is part of an ongoing statewide effort to "reinvent" the high school experience and better prepare Hoosiers for their lives post-graduation — whether they want to pursue college or other skills training, or choose to directly enter the workforce. The new options will take effect beginning with the Class of 2029 — for students that are currently in seventh grade. Indiana Secretary of Education Katie Jenner said some Hoosier schools will likely roll out the revamped graduation requirements sooner, though. "How do we make the four years of high school as valuable as possible for students? What does that look like in a country where high school education has not changed, for most, in over 100 years? And yet the world around us, technology, is advancing — the world around us is changing," Jenner said, noting that Indiana's diploma has not been "significantly updated" since the late 1980s. "We don't have a roadmap. A

lot of discussion is going to be key — feedback is going to be key — and it will not be perfect out of the gate," Jenner added. "But we cannot let the perfect get in the way of the good on this. We have to start somewhere." The Indiana Department of Education presented the proposal before the State Board of Education Wednesday morning. Paramount to the plan, according to state officials, is maximized "flexibility" for students to personalize learning pathways and experiences, including with college courses taken while still in high school, as well as the ability to count internships, apprenticeships, military experience and other work-based learning toward their graduation requirements. If approved, Indiana's diplomas would, for the first time, be aligned to the state's current graduation pathways. They would also model five key Indiana Graduate Prepared to Succeed characteristics: academic mastery, career and postsecondary readiness (which includes credentials and experiences), communication and collaboration, work ethic, and civic, financial and digital literacy. The rulemaking process to finalize the diploma model is (Continued on Page 2)

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**Outside**  
  
The sun visits, but the wind may blow you away  
Today Friday Saturday  
High 51 High 60 High 63  
Low 35 Low 48 Low 40  
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## Law enforcement prepares

(Continued from Page 1)  
on eclipse day.

"Flexibility and adaptability will rule the day," said Bluffton Police Chief Kyle Randall.

Since it is unknown how heavy the traffic will be, Holliday is stationing deputies in every area of the county. Holliday further emphasized that people should find a parking spot to view the eclipse, not just pull off to the side of the road, as that could cause a hazard.

"It's going to be our priority to get those things

cleared up as fast as we can so that we can get people in and out," Holliday said.

Agler further stated that in the buildup to the eclipse, the expected tourism increase could see essential supplies run out. Holliday encouraged people to pre-plan trips to the gas station and groceries before the eclipse as a precautionary measure.

The surge of people using cell phones could strain communication lines as well. While the Sheriff's Office and police have priority on those lines, the

office's Facebook page stresses that citizens should try to keep 911 lines as open as possible.

"A lot of our job is reactive, but we're doing our part to be proactive in what we can do," Holliday said.

A major event such as the eclipse has seen a collaboration between Wells, other counties, and state departments over the past year. Holliday mentioned that he's had conversations with Adams County about their plans for dealing with people. Agler further noted that the Department of Natural

Resources is bringing multiple officers to help deal with traffic at the state parks.

Since there are no clear estimates of how many people will be here, the office has tried to get the word out about potential issues through its Facebook page.

"We have a pretty good following on our Facebook page, so we've been putting stuff out to try to get people to pre-plan," Holliday said. "We're doing as much as we can on our social media to get information out to the public."

jonathan@news-banner.com

## Weather

Thursday, March 28, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:44 p.m. Wednesday)  
High: 41; Low: 32; Precipitation: None  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.65 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 51. West wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 35. West wind around 5 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 60. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday Night:** Rain likely, with thunderstorms also possible after 5 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 48. South wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Saturday:** Rain and thunderstorms likely before 11 a.m., then a chance of rain between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., then a chance of rain and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 63. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Saturday Night:** A 20% chance of rain and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 40.

**Sunday:** A 30% chance of rain, mainly after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 58.

**Sunday Night:** A chance of rain and thunderstorms, then rain likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 46. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

**Monday:** A chance of rain and thunderstorms, then rain and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. High near 62. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

**Monday Night:** Rain and thunderstorms. Low around 42. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

**Tuesday:** A 40% chance of rain and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 52.

**Tuesday Night:** A slight chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 33.

**Wednesday:** A slight chance of showers. Mostly sunny, with a high near 50.

## Imagine Early director

(Continued from Page 1)  
providers.

For example, King said in-home providers could take state vouchers for childcare if they received their license.

"I think the biggest need is there's childcare vouchers out there, and there's not places for people to take the vouchers to (providers) that accept them," King said. "But it's also hard to make relationships with people who don't want to be with the government or to be micromanaged as an in-home daycare provider. (This position) will be key to really get those relationships (and) to just show them that it's really not that bad."

King believes these kinds of resources are critical in helping address the need for quality childcare within the two counties. A mother to a five-year-old, King considers herself lucky to have found childcare in the area while so many others have not been able to at an affordable price.

According to Brighter Futures Indiana, Wells County has an estimated 1,371 children under six years old who may need care and the capacity for 990. However, the total capacity for licensed facilities is 495.

"I firmly believe that childcare is not only beneficial for the child, but the parent ... For me, I would not be

in the place that I'm in now. If I didn't have childcare, I wouldn't have gone and done five years of nonprofit work, which then led me to this job."

"We are thrilled to have (King) join Imagine Early," said Colton Bickel, Adams County Economic Development Executive Director and Imagine Early board president. "The experience she brings will be utilized to drive transformation and change in our Early Learning environment. We can't wait to see the benefits this will bring to Adams and Wells counties."

King can be reached at ashleigh@imagineearly.org.

holly@news-banner.com

## Gubernatorial candidates

(Continued from Page 1)

Chambers took the opportunity to assert that the federal government — including Braun — had failed Hoosiers.

"On Sen. Braun's watch, 7 million people have come over the border illegally," Chambers said. "The front door of our country is closed (but) the back door is slapping wide open, and he has not ... led on one bill to address this."

Doden also critiqued Braun for traveling to the border and shooting a campaign advertisement there.

Braun and Crouch were also clear they'd also deport migrants. Crouch, in particular, vowed to deport them to so-called sanctuary cities outside Indiana. She also took credit for new Hoosier restrictions on land purchases by "adversaries." The other candidates, however, hedged, with Chambers saying, "We have to evaluate that as it comes," and Doden emphasizing the "rule of law."

Braun said Chamber's argument was "naïveté" and said a Democrat would've had to take the lead on immigration restrictions for such proposals to get past the Democrat-led U.S. Senate.

Chambers separately jabbed at Braun, accusing the senator of changing his position on qualified immunity for law enforcement officers and for comments made to popular conservative show host Tucker Carlson that appeared supportive of Black Lives Matter.

Braun said he no longer wanted to alter qualified immunity after listening to officers, and said his comments had been taken out of context.

"That reference, that was to somebody exercising their First Amendment rights," he said. "(I) was never going to ever support a radical crazy group like the umbrella group BLM."

Braun also recently picked up the endorsement of the Indiana State Police Alliance.

**Attacks on economic development leaders**

Braun, meanwhile, took on Chambers and Doden for their respective records while running the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Chambers served in the role from 2021 to 2023, when he stepped down to run for governor, and Doden from 2013 to

2015.

"This guy over here has been with his fat cat buddies," Braun said of Chambers, observing that one supporter from homegrown pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly donated \$100,000. He and Doden also said the IEDC under Chambers had focused too many resources on large projects.

"Competition, transparency, spread the wealth on economic development. That's not been occurring under his regime," Braun said.

Chambers defended his tenure with the IEDC, noting "record results, higher wages, investments all over the state. So, I am flattered the business community supports my campaign."

Chambers added the IEDC puts its data into a publicly available portal and offers performance-based incentives.

Braun also accused Doden of shady dealings.

"When he was involved in economic development, he had issues where he wasn't actually doing things to help small towns," Braun said. "He was maybe trying to help his own friends and business. (Doden) got an ethics watch about it and ignored it four times."

Doden, meanwhile, critiqued Chambers' IEDC for spending billions on an Innovation District in Lebanon that is expected to require significant water from another part of the state.

"The IEDC needs to go back to its roots, where we had it when I was running it — where it served all 92 counties, where ... we were not trying to buy property," Doden said. "We were not trying to ... draw water away. We were not spending billions of dollars in one county. We were serving the entire state."

**Candidates highlight signature proposals**

Crouch, meanwhile, took more heat for her plan to ditch Indiana's income tax. It's worth about \$8 billion annually.

"I think it's inappropriate for a governor to make a promise that they can't keep — our income taxes cannot be axed," Doden said. "... We need to work with the General Assembly to make sure that we lower taxes as much as possible in a fiscally responsible way."

Crouch ribbed Doden for having "selective hearing."

"I said it can't hap-

pen overnight. It has to be phased in," she said. "... But we can do it if we phase it in, and take excess surpluses and revenues and put them towards eliminating that income tax — putting money back into your pockets every single year."

Crouch also again called for independent audits of most major state agencies, and specifically for IEDC and the Family and Social Services Administration. She flamed the latter for its infamous \$1 billion Medicaid forecasting error, which has jeopardized funding for parental care of medically complex kids.

Doden, meanwhile, repeatedly referred to his plans for zero-cost adoptions and to restore small Hoosier communities.

Braun and Chambers highlighted their business experience, with Braun also emphasizing his "proven record in the Senate for effectiveness."

**Candidates talk Holcomb, marijuana and IVF**

Moderators asked each candidate to give the term-limited Holcomb a grade on his tenure as governor.

Braun offered a B-. He said Holcomb's economic development efforts were "okay" but that he hadn't "seen a lot of improvement" on the state's education and workforce crises.

Chambers gave his former boss an A, saying Holcomb "has tackled some real issues." He supported funding boosts for law enforcement and public health, and said he was "super proud" of the state's economic growth.

Crouch was the most critical, with an A and a C. She said pandemic-era restrictions had increased rates of anxiety and depression among Hoosiers, and particularly for young people.

Doden declined to grade the outgoing governor, saying he preferred to focus on the future.

The candidates also differed on whether Indiana should legalize marijuana, a move Holcomb has firmly resisted. Braun, Chambers and Doden said they were open to medicinal marijuana, but Crouch said she opposed legalization of "another drug," citing mental health concerns.

All candidates agreed that Indiana should maintain access to IVF fertility treatments.

Alabama's top court

recently ruled that frozen embryos should be considered people, halting fertility treatments in that state until Gov. Kay Ivey signed a law shielding IVF providers from liability.

"As a pro-life candidate, I think we have to protect life but we also have to promote life. I believe that families in Indiana should have access to IVF," Chambers said.

"It's very clear: if you believe in the sanctity of life, you should treat living embryos with respect. When you try to say it is a living child, I think that is where you get into discussions, even when you say you're pro-life," Braun said.

Crouch said she'd "protect life, but also protect the rights of these women and these couples to be able to bring a precious life into this world." Doden agreed and said he'd improve adoption and implement a fund to help adoptive parents cover expenses.

**Several candidates missing**

To debate Tuesday, candidates needed to have raised at least \$100,000 and received at least 5% on a poll question that includes all party-aligned candidates in a primary, according to Nextar's debate criteria.

Republicans Curtis Hill and Jamie Reitenour didn't meet those standards. Reitenour lambasted the network for leaving her off the stage in a news release last week, noting that Nextar's contracts say it can modify criteria "if there is a strong public interest rationale."

Crouch and other candidates previously called to allow all candidates the opportunity to debate.

GOP candidates will again meet on stage in a Wednesday debate televised by WISH-TV. Hill qualified, but Reitenour did not due to low fundraising.

Indiana Democratic Party Chair Mike Schmuhl criticized the debate candidates for providing "talking points, but few real solutions" in a news release Tuesday. So did Jennifer McCormick, the only Democrat on the primary ballot.

"Tonight, Hoosiers watched as candidates for Governor spent 60 minutes catering to the most extreme voices in their party and ignored the kitchen table issues that actually matter. It was sad, and I know Indiana can do better," she said.

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**OBITUARIES**

**Phyllis I. Cassidy, 92**

Phyllis I. Cassidy, 92, a longtime resident of Liberty Center, passed away early Tuesday morning, March 26, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community in Bluffton.



Phyllis was born Sept. 26, 1931 in Wells County to J. Kelly and Cleora (Russell) Moore. She graduated from Liberty Center High School in 1949. She was the director of Medical Records for Wells Community Hospital for 23 years, retiring in 1989. She also worked on the EMS for 13 years. Phyllis was a member of the Liberty Center Baptist Church and American Legion Post 111 Auxiliary.

On Sept. 5, 1951, Phyllis and Dean A. Cassidy were married at the Liberty Center Baptist Church. Together they were world travelers and devout followers of the Lord. They shared 70 years of marriage before Dean's passing in 2022.

Survivors include their children, Becky (David) Foster of Casper, Wyo., Deana Price of Bluffton and Brian (Julie) Cassidy of Winter Garden, Fla.; along with 12 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Phyllis is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Dean; a son, Timothy Cassidy; and a daughter, Beverly Cassidy.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 29, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Burial will follow at Mossburg Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28, 2024, at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service.

Memorials may be made to Liberty Center Baptist Church or American Legion Post 111 of Bluffton.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

**Robin Trubey Thornburgh, 70**

Robin Trubey Thornburgh, 70, of Bluffton, passed away Tuesday evening, March 26, 2024, at her home, surrounded by her family.



Robin was born Nov. 11, 1953, in Bluffton to Dr. Charles William "Bill" Trubey and Barbara Eileen (Johnson) Trubey. She graduated from Bluffton High School in 1972 and has remained close friends with many of her classmates. Robin graduated from IU Bloomington after two years where she studied Spanish. She used her Spanish skills as a translator and assisted her father on several eye mission trips sponsored by the Bluffton Lions Club.

She had a wonderful singing voice and was part of a group called "Household of Faith." She sang many times at local churches and sang at many weddings. She loved theater and performed in the "Pajama Game" in high school. She played Mrs. Paroo in "Music Man," was a nun in "The Sound of Music" and sang in the choir of "Oklahoma." She also performed in many Easter and Christmas dramas at Sonlight Wesleyan Church, where she was part of the choir and performed many solo specials that were especially loved.

Robin sold home interiors and gifts for over 20 years holding sales parties across the area, winning many awards. She later joined Bi-County Services, where she worked for 20 years, working in their semi-independent living program.

On Feb. 1, 1985, Robin and Jack Thornburgh were married. They met while singing starting a singing group with Jack's sister, Connie Huffman.

Survivors include her husband of 39 years, Jack of Bluffton; two sons, Benjamin (Carrie) Thornburgh and their children William and Eilene Thornburgh, of Warsaw, and Daniel Thornburgh of Sunnydale, Calif. She is also survived by a brother, Gordon Trubey of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and a sister Beth Trubey of Bluffton.

She is preceded in death by her parents; brothers Chuck Trubey and Steve Trubey; and her sister-in-law, Jan Trubey.

A memorial service will be held April 13, 2024, at 3 p.m. at Sonlight Wesleyan Church in Bluffton with Rev. Lyle Breeding officiating.

Memorials may be made to the National Kidney Foundation and directed to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

**Wanda Mae (Kiefer) Steffen, 96**

Wanda Mae (Kiefer) Steffen, 96 of Bluffton, died Wednesday morning, March 27, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Community.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

**William Zirkelbach, Jr., 89**

William Zirkelbach, Jr., 89, of Bluffton, died Wednesday afternoon, March 27, 2024, at his residence.

Funeral arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

**Indiana Finance Authority expands water study**

By WHITNEY DOWNARD, Indiana Capital Chronicle  
The Indiana Finance Authority — tasked with analyzing water demand supply across a 13-county stretch around Tippecanoe County — will now include every county that touches the headwaters of the Wabash River for a total of 28 counties.

"The study was originally planned to give the state a thorough understanding of demand and supply availability across the 13 counties over the next 50 years," said Jim McGoff, IFA chief operating officer and director of environmental programs. "Adding in the Wabash headwaters, a considerable span of geography just north of the original study area, will produce a more comprehensive report of the current and future water availability and use."

The state agency took over the study previously helmed by the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) in November in anticipation of a massive high-tech park in Boone County known as the LEAP Lebanon Innovation District.

One of the entities rumored to be considering the site needs water for its manufacturing needs that Boone County couldn't supply. This led to a proposal to pump millions of gallons of water daily from Tippecanoe County 35 miles away. Pushback from Tippecanoe officials, including General Assembly members, prompted a water study but concerns about the IEDC's ability to be independent shifted oversight to the IFA.

**INCIDENTS**

**City:**  
Tuesday, 2:57 p.m., E Ind. 124 and Eastmoor Drive. Report of an adult male speaking with several children and trying to get them to play ball with him.

Tuesday, 3:16 p.m., S. Bond Street and W. Central Avenue. Report of a suspicious man "lingering" in the neighborhood and asking if people know a "Michael."

Tuesday, 3:20 p.m., Roush Park. Report of several juveniles sitting on a dugout roof. Kids were not sitting on the roof when the officer arrived.

Tuesday, 3:24 p.m., 500 block of Normandy Drive. Pitbull ran off without a leash.

Tuesday, 3:55 p.m., 800 block of South Oak Street. Report of a missing person.

Tuesday, 3:58 p.m., 500 block of Eastmoor Drive. Report of suspicious person. Subject lives nearby and was just out for a walk.

Tuesday, 4:05 p.m., 200 block of North Baldwin Street. Tagged abandoned vehicle.

Tuesday, 4:08 p.m., 300 block of North Morgan Street. Abandoned vehicle.

Tuesday, 4:49 p.m., 1100 block of South Adams Street. Report of possible theft and fraud.

Tuesday, 7 p.m., Jersey

**Police Notebook**

and Townley streets. Missing person found.

Tuesday, 7:07 p.m., Main Street and Harrison Road. Large piece of metal in the roadway.

Wednesday, 2:04 a.m., 400 block of East Arnold Street. Report of a domestic altercation between a man and a woman.

Wednesday, 9:14 a.m., 800 block of West Wiley Avenue. Report of property damage.

**County:**

Tuesday, 5:29 p.m., W 100S S 300W, Liberty Center. Vehicle observed traveling at 96 mph and did not slow when passing a marked and visible deputy patrol car. The deputy used its lights and siren to catch up with the vehicle, which did not initially pull over. When the vehicle eventually stopped at the intersection of CR 300W and CR 100S, driver Diamond Bailey, 18, Hartford City, said she wasn't paying attention but agreed the speed was excessive. Bailey was transported back to the Wells County Jail, where a body scan showed a foreign cylindrical object on Bailey's chest. Bailey handed the object, a vape pen, over, and confirmed it contained THC and she had last used it about an hour prior. Bailey was then transported to

Bluffton Regional Medical Center for a blood draw. She was charged with possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor, and reckless driving and operating with a controlled substance in the body, both Class C misdemeanors. Bond set at \$2,000. Bonded.

Tuesday, 5:56 p.m., S.R. 301 and E. Wenger Court.

A red Ford Mustang was observed blowing through a stop sign and past a deputy patrol car. The vehicle was pulled over in a traffic stop, and its driver, Jesse Matlock, exited the vehicle, put the keys on top of the vehicle, and his hands in the air. The driver said he knew why had been pulled over — he had just bought the vehicle and didn't have any paperwork for it, insurance, and the license plate returns to his pickup truck. His driver's license also listed an address that hadn't been updated in two years. Matlock was cited for disregarding the stop sign and driving without insurance and the vehicle was towed. The former vehicle owner confirmed it had been purchased in February and a lost title had been requested and was available for pick-up.

Wednesday, 12:50 p.m., 500 block of Greenwood Trail. Caller reported a 15-year-old had possibly taken a vehicle. Deputy got

in contact with the juvenile's guardian and the juvenile was returned.

Wednesday, 7:41 a.m., E 1050S and S 750E, Keystone. Report of deer with broken legs, caller said they had not been involved in the accident. Deer died shortly after deputy arrived.

Wednesday, 8:33 a.m., S 600W and W. 900S, Warren. Car vs. deer. Deputy requested to put down deer.

Wednesday, 9:12 a.m., E. U.S. 224 and N 800E. Flock camera alerted of trailer stolen from Tennessee entering the county. Trailer towed.

**FIRES**

**Ossian:**  
Tuesday, 5:20 p.m., Norwell High School. Fire alarm.

**ARRESTS**

Heather Annette Logan, 50, New Haven; driving while suspended — prior suspension within 10 years and operating a vehicle while intoxicated — endangerment, both Class A misdemeanors, and operating a vehicle with a controlled substance in the body, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond not set.

Christina Marie Dodson, 55, Markle; recklessly, knowingly or intentionally sell, barter, exchange, provide or furnish to a minor, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.



*Spring cleaning at Rotary Park*

Members of the Bluffton Rotary Club, in lieu of their normal Tuesday meeting, cleaned up debris at Rotary Park and the Howard Rich Pavilion. Pictured from left are Rotary President Jordan Arnold, Derek Myers, Casey Robbins, Angie Topp, Garrett Bucher, Lee VonGunten and Doug Brown. (Photo submitted)

**Preliminary report shows decrease in infant fatalities**

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A 2024 report analyzing 2022 infant death records with a preliminary glimpse at 2023 fatalities found that deaths decreased between the two years, from 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births to 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. Roughly 11 babies died every week in 2022 for a total of 577 children who died before their first birthday.

"Every baby lost is a tragedy," State Health Commissioner Lindsay Weaver said in a release. "Although it's preliminary, we are encouraged to see that infant mortality is declining in Indiana, and we'll continue working to understand the causes of these deaths so even more can be prevented."

The national average for 2022 infant mortality was 5.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. The rate for Black, non-Hispanic children continued to outpace their peers, with a rate of 14.1 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2022, or 140 children. Hispanic children of all races had a rate of 7.9 deaths per 1,000 births followed by white children at 5.6 deaths per 1,000 births.

In 2016, the rate of infants dying reached 7.5 deaths per 1,000 births compared to the national average of 5.9 deaths per 1,000 births.

The data, released in a presentation format, included any death in which a child died before their first birthday in 2022. Because all of the death records are from 2022, some births may have occurred in 2021 or be related to pregnancies from 2020. Deaths and births are both reported by the Health Vital Records division of the Indiana Department of Health.

As the presentation notes, infant mortality is considered to be the number one indica-

tor of health status in the world. The greatest contributing factor to 2022 deaths was identified as "perinatal risks, or conditions related to the health and well-being of the mother."

Other factors include: lack of early prenatal care, stress, obesity and smoking. As with maternal mortality — a report the state released earlier in the week — a significant number of women reported not accessing prenatal care during their pregnancies.

Programs designed to help mothers and children include the Indiana Pregnancy Promise Program, the Nurse Family Partnership as well as the Maternal Infant & Childhood Home Visiting.

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## Vietnam's three wars still haunt us all



Dewey Randall

### Guest Column

Few times in the last hundred years has our country not been engaged in armed hostilities. Today, although not in a declared war, American men and women in uniform face adversaries around the world who test the resolve of our nation's military.

While no person in harm's way escapes completely unscathed, those who served in Vietnam were called to face the curse of war on three levels.

Over 2.5 million service personnel had boots on the ground in Vietnam. It is said that for every combatant in the field there were ten support personnel behind the lines. If that estimate holds true then more than 250 thousand troops at one time or another stood face-to-face with the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese Army.

Those individuals deserve the reverence and respect which they are afforded by the far majority of Americans. They were particularly vulnerable as they took the fight to the enemy across rice paddies, along jungle trails, and throughout the Central Highlands.

However, service-men and -women whose duties were behind the lines also endured hardship: stifling heat, torrential rains, and the reality of being nearly 9,000 miles away from family, friends, and familiar surroundings. Comforts were few and anxiety was ever-present as each day brought a new set of unknowns.



Later, when their tour of duty was complete and military members returned to "the world", a new kind of conflict awaited. Rather than being recognized and admired for service to their country they were often scorned and reviled by their own countrymen.

Many recall being spat upon or having to endure curses and profanities hurled by a new kind of adversary: peaceniks and anti-war protesters. There were no celebratory parades or welcome home ceremonies for those returning from Vietnam.

Most sought refuge in family and the familiar surroundings of home. They looked to exchange their uniforms for meaningful employment and starting families of their own. Sadly, some turned to self-indulgent, harmful activities. They seldom talked about their service except to others with similar experiences.

But, even then, Vietnam was not done with those that served within its borders. For many, the war still rages on nearly 50 years after the Paris Peace Accords officially ended America's participation in the conflict.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder plagues many Vietnam veterans to this day robbing them of the very peace of mind they fought to protect and preserve for others. For some, PTSD episodes can be extremely enervating as the conscious mind seeks to gain control over the subconscious.

Perhaps the most insidious remnant of the Vietnam War, however, is the life-long effects of Agent Orange, the herbicide used to defoliate large areas of the country thereby depriving the enemy of his biggest advantage.

The toxins in Agent Orange can lay dormant in the human body for decades surfacing in later years, when the veteran is most vulnerable, in a laundry list of serious illnesses and disabilities.

While more than 58,000 American lives were lost during the war itself, Agent Orange has resulted in the death of over 300,000 brave patriots since the war ended.

We salute all the valiant men and women throughout the years who have stood against tyranny and oppressiveness. However, it is with particular gratitude, on this special day, that we honor veterans of the Vietnam War, many whom are yet engaged in a fight for their lives.

May God grant you peace at all times and in every way.

Dewey Randall is the Wells County Veterans Service Officer

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, March 28, the 88th day of 2024. There are 278 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On March 28, 1979, America's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred with a partial meltdown inside the Unit 2 reactor at the Three Mile Island plant near Middletown, Pennsylvania.

On this date: In 1797, Nathaniel Briggs of New Hampshire received a patent for a washing machine.

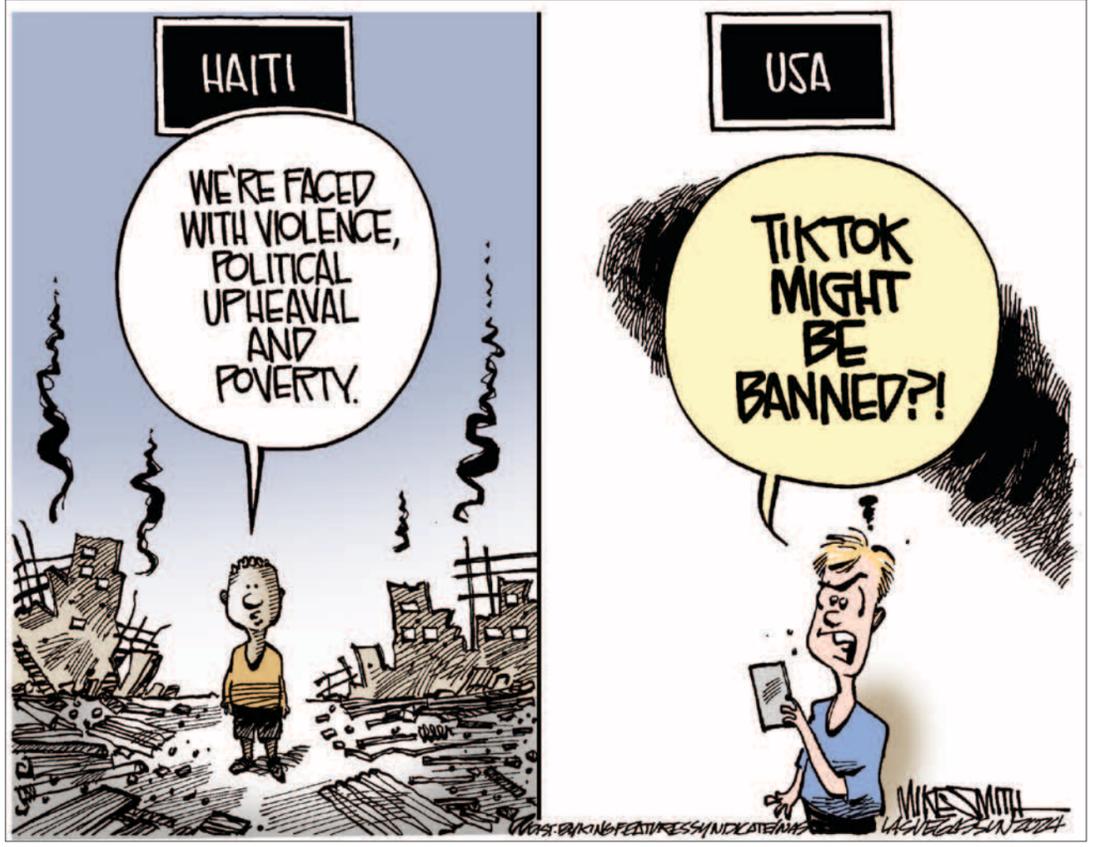
In 1854, during the Crimean War, Britain and

France declared war on Russia.

In 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court, in United States v. Wong Kim Ark, ruled 6-2 that Wong, who was born in the United States to Chinese immigrants, was an American citizen.

In 1935, the notorious Nazi propaganda film "Triumph des Willens" (Triumph of the Will), directed by Leni Riefenstahl, premiered in Berlin with Adolf Hitler present.

In 1939, the Spanish Civil War neared its end as Madrid fell to the forces of Francisco Franco.



## Recapturing our lost and disillusioned youth

Our nation's Declaration of Independence begins with the famous statement that "all men ... are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." But according to the latest Gallup World Happiness Report, Americans' success in the "pursuit of happiness" is diminishing.

For the first time since the annual report was first compiled in 2012, the United States is not among the top 20 happiest countries in the world. In this latest 2024 report, the United States ranks 23 in the world, down from number 15 in 2023.

A large factor influencing the drop in happiness in the United States is particularly bad results among young Americans. For those age 30 and below, the United States ranks 62 in the world. This compared to those age 60 and above, for whom the United States ranks number 10.

What's going on with our youth?

A recent Wall Street Journal article about so-called Gen Z, those born between 1997 and 2012, identifies members of Gen Z who are 18 and up as "America's Most Disillusioned Voters." The headline continues, "Young adults are now more skeptical of government and pessimistic about the future than any other living generation before them."

Per Wall Street Journal polling reported in the article, "More than three-quarters of voters under 30 think the country is moving in the wrong direction — a greater share than any other age group. Nearly one-third of voters under 30 have an unfavorable view of both Biden and Trump, a higher number than all older voters. Sixty-three percent of young voters think neither party adequately represents them."

In the 18-25 age group, 28% say they have "hardly any confidence" in the Supreme Court, 34% in Congress, 37% in the executive branch and 52% in the press.

A young USA Today columnist named Sara Pequeno shared her views about what's going on and why. The explanations she ticks off are a generation coming of age during the Covid pandemic, an explosion of the worst inflation in years and, she adds, the

impact of the Supreme Court overturning of Roe v. Wade, which she calls "the loss of a right that our parents had — the right to an abortion nationwide."

She cites Gallup showing that 89% of those 18-29 years old support legal abortion under any or certain circumstances.

We're talking here about our nation's future, and this dismal picture should trouble us all.

Let me suggest a different perspective on this problem.

This youngest generation is also coming of age during a time of unprecedented expansion of government, meaning an unprecedented incursion into the individual freedom of every American. The federal government is now taking one-quarter of the American economy. Federal debt, equal to our entire GDP, is projected by the Congressional Budget Office to keep growing. This is all on the shoulders of these young Americans.

Regarding the impact of the Covid pandemic, a new study published by the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, authored by scholars from the Hoover Institution, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Chicago and the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, shows the costs of the shutdowns in the way of added deaths, massive economic costs and damage caused by school shutdowns overwhelm any benefits that were gained.

Regarding abortion, we must note that these young Americans are growing up in an environment of the collapse of the American family, traditional marriage and birth rates.

Let's be aware, as we enter the season of Easter for Christians and Passover for Jews, that the growth of government tracks the diminishing of faith. To go back to the Declaration of Independence, the rights the founders noted were sourced in our Creator. The founders who signed the Declaration did so "with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence."

This was meant to be a free nation under God. As we destroy these conditions, we are losing our young people.



Star Parker

*This youngest generation is coming of age during a time of unprecedented expansion of government*

## The darkness of Good Friday revisited

Easter is coming soon. It should be the grandest of holidays on earth.

However Christmas takes that role. It seems market dollars increase in greater proportion when buying frenzies are based on a birth rather than a death. Profit lines have not grasped a handle on the concept of resurrection. Thus candy canes and egg nog rank higher on the profit margin than Peeps and hollow chocolate bunnies.

Easter Day's date fluctuates, unlike Christmas' assigned December 25. Easter occurs on each first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. That means the day set aside for Resurrection Celebration, including that at Angelkeep, relies heavily on nature, not history. If the full moon would happen to land on Sunday, then Easter would be the following Sunday.

Angelkeep has forever been a strong believer in the Christian historical account of Jesus being the Son of God. It's fact based on faith. Thusly goes the Good Friday observance of the Christ child, as a man, being crucified on a cross unto death. Complete human and eternal death. God the Father allowed that. That's a mandatory belief if anyone desires to be known as Christian. Easter celebrates resurrection. That dead Christ of the human body, returning to life. An ascension to Heaven for all eternity followed, He to sit at the right hand of God His Father. For some it's too much to grasp. So for those naysayers, why would any of them want to stock up on jellybeans or dye-color eggs?

Very soon, April 8, 2024, to be exact, the day prior to a new moon, the daylight will darken at Angelkeep to nearly the level of nighttime. It will be an extraordinary event that surely panicked the naysayers well before the alignment of planet and

### Angelkeep Journals

moon could be fully comprehended.

Angelkeep expects the total to roughly begin about 3:09 pm and last to about 3:12 pm, or so, producing nighttime darkness during daytime for a totality of under four minutes. What will happen in the darkness? Will millions travel to total eclipse areas and cause highway gridlock? Will offices close? Will restaurants be disastrously overrun with hungry travelers both before and after the darkened minutes? Will hospitals be overrun with the blind due to protective eyewear being sold out and unavailable? Will insanity reign?

Besides eclipse eyewear, what will the marketers promote? Moon Pies? Angelkeep, for one, would certainly entertain trying a Moon Pie Blizzard at DQ. M&M's could sell moon-size bags using only black and white candy colors. Indiana's official state sugar crème pie might be renamed shadow crème pie.

Justifiable hype over the total eclipse passing through Indiana soon brings on a comparison of a similar, but different, event taking place in the first century at a location far from Angelkeep. They called it Golgotha. A place of a skulls, as the King James translated. Since medieval times this spot became a pilgrimage destination. It is somewhat comparable to the expected pilgrimage of millions journeying to a nearby ideal to view the eclipse.

"And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha...they gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall..."



Alan Daugherty

Some suggest when the eclipse occurs that bottled water and other drinks will be scarce, local supplies liquidated by travelers. Will taverns offer up a special elliptical mixed drink?

On what we now call Good Friday, soldiers in charge of the cross duty ended labors by casting lots for Christ's garments, leaving him clad in a loin cloth. "And sitting down they watched him there."

It very well could be that eclipse travelers into the area nearby Angelkeep will find little space left to set up a campsite with a shade canopy, and spread recliners beside amply-filled chest coolers. What they will await can be read about later in the gospel, or a similar facsimile. The soldiers at Jesus's feet were unprepared for the natural event to occur.

Chief priests, scribes, and elders mocked the hanging "King of the Jews," as indicated by a sign. "Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Jesus, when he had cried again...yielded up the ghost."

Did God use a natural phenomenon like an eclipse, but in a different and bolder way, to emphasize His plan for sin salvation? Golgotha's darkness ran three hours. The Great American Eclipse will run just over four hours, minutes of totality countable on one hand.

Was God's perfect natural plan of creation collaborated with the eventual crucifixion day including a time of darkness, originating back to Genesis? Faith makes Angelkeep a believer.

Mr. Daugherty is a Wells County resident who, along with his wife Gwen, enjoy their backyard and have named it "Angelkeep."

## The News-Banner

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# Clashing values with my in-laws

Dear Annie: My daughter is the only grandchild, and my mother gives her a gift every time we see her. I've told her several times that we don't want to overwhelm our child (3 years old) with material things, that she has too many toys she doesn't play with. It's very important to my husband and I that our child values what she has. My mother is single and very sensitive. Either she ignores what I say or cries. My husband is getting annoyed with the amount of things coming home and berates me for not standing up for our ideals more strongly. How can I address this? — Caught in the Middle

Dear Caught in the Middle: Grandparents love to spoil their grandkids. It's part of what makes being a grandparent such a gift; all of the fun, none of the discipline! That being said, I can understand why you don't want your child to grow accustomed to receiving material things every time she sees Grandma.

Tell your mother that you love how much care and attention she is giving your daughter, and explain the values you are trying to instill. Suggest some other ways your mother can spoil her granddaughter — taking her to the beach, taking her out for ice cream or playing a game with her.

Dear Annie: I'm dealing with a family feud that's really been weighing on me. My sister, "Sarah," and I have always been close, but a recent disagreement over our late father's estate has driven a wedge between us. Our dad passed away unexpectedly in a car crash, leaving behind a sizable inheritance that includes our childhood home.

Sarah believes the house should be sold and the proceeds split evenly between us. But I have strong sentimental attachments to the house! It has so many memories with our dad.

This disagreement has escalated into many arguments, some of which have gotten pretty nasty.

Our mother, who is caught in the middle, is upset by the rift between her two daughters. She's urging us to find a compromise but it doesn't look like either of us is ready to budge.

How can we resolve this? I want to honor our father's memory while also respecting my sister's wishes. — Divided Daughters

Dear Divided: It's understandable that both of you have strong emotions tied to your childhood home, and it's also important to recognize that grief can amplify the tension in these situations. The guidance of a neutral mediator or estate planner could help facilitate a constructive conversation. Remember, compromise doesn't mean giving up what's important to you entirely; it's about finding a solution that respects everyone's feelings and honors your father's memory. House or no house, you will always be connected to him.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

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## Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



## BETLE BAILEY



## BLONDIE



## ZITS



## CRANKSHAFT



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



## Let Christ transform your life

Question: I have not been able to find the right person to marry and some of my family suggest that I am too closed-minded to using a match-making service. They're convinced I will find my soulmate online! Seems kind of cold to me. — M.N.

Answer: Matchmaking has become a booming business from Africa to Asia, from Australia to Europe, in our culture's restless search for a "soul mate." Online services promise to bring light into your life by matching you up with someone just right for you. "Relationship experts" teach clients to practice "self-love" in order to attract a potential partner. One such expert wrote, "We have the

power to create our own personal movie-like narratives, love stories based on our own desires and hopes."

The subject of the soul has a prominent place in our thinking. Have you found the sole source of the real kind of love that can bring light into your life? Salvation in Jesus Christ is the only hope for your soul. Only He can illuminate the dark corners of your life and give your soul satisfaction. The soul was made by God and for God, and without Him it is restless and in secret torment.

You can search for the perfect spouse. You can search for some religion that fits your particular lifestyle. But your search will never come to a satisfying end.

Instead, you can commit your life completely to the Lord who brings true and lasting fulfillment to the human soul who sincerely seeks Him in truth. Let Christ transform your life so that you will have a glow on your face, a spring in your step, and joy in your soul. He is the One who knows your longings and deepest needs.

The Bible tells us to "humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls" (James 1:21, NLT).

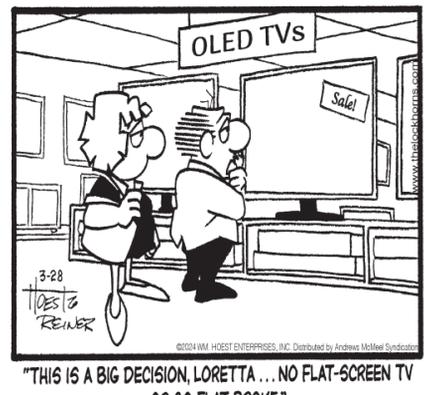
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

## The LOCKHORNS



03/28	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30	
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Movie				Creflo Dollar	Joseph Prince (N)	Morris Joyce	TCT Today	Perry Stone	James Robison	Dr. Robert Jeffrey	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor		Today With God	
CBS WANE (15)	2	15	15		News (N)	Inside Edition (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	NCAA Men's Regional Semifinal: Teams TBA College basketball teams vie for the national championship. (L) (N)	Nightcast (N)	Colbert (N)	
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ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21		ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 News (N)	Ent. Tonight (N)	9-1-1 "Capsized" (N)	Grey's Anatomy "Walk on the Ocean" (N)	Station 19 "True Colors" (N)	ABC21 (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(35) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8	14		Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud	Family Feud	Law & Order	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Organized Crime	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	The King of Queens	The King of Queens	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	Dateline "The Capture"	Chicago P.D. "Made a Wrong Turn"	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Mom	Mom	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	The Goldbergs	
CW WISE (33)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	The Connors	The Connors	Son of a Critch (N)	Son of a Critch (N)	Dish Nation (N)	TMZ (N)	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Worsley "Henry VIII's Reformation"	PBS NewsHour (N)	BBC News America	Arts In Focus (N)	This Old House (N)	This Old House (N)	Call the Midwife	Nolly on Masterpiece	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	This Old House	This Old House	This Old House	This Old House	This Old House	
PBS WFP (49)	3				Worsley "Henry VIII's Reformation"	Context	PBS News America	PBS NewsHour (N)	Now Entering	Amplified Conv	Vienna Blood "Darkness Rising: Part 2"	Farmer Wants a Wife (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	This Old House	This Old House	This Old House	This Old House	This Old House	This Old House	
FOX WFFT (55)	6	6	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	Next Level Chef (N)	Next Level Chef (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	Neighbor	
<b>CABLE CHANNELS</b>																					
LIFE	23	113	108	252	Castle	Castle	Castle	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	Theresa Caputo: "Raising Spirits" (N)	(35) Baby (N)	(35) Baby (N)	(35) Theresa Caputo "Kids Stay in the Picture" (N)	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	Theresa Caputo "Enhanced Edition" (N)	
FX	24	132	136	148	(430) Ford v Ferrari (19) Christian Bale, Jon Bernthal, Matt Damon.	(430) Ford v Ferrari (19) Christian Bale, Jon Bernthal, Matt Damon.	(430) Ford v Ferrari (19) Christian Bale, Jon Bernthal, Matt Damon.	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond
TVLAND	25		106	304	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith	Andy Griffith
E!	26	142	114	236	The Fast & the Furious: Tokyo Drift	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men	Two and a Half Men
PARMT	30	241	241		Around (N)	SportsCenter (N)	Baseball Tonight (L) (N)	College Baseball LSU at Arkansas (L) (N)	Cardinals Pregame Post (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at St. Louis Blues From St. Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Texas Rangers From Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. (L) (N)	SC Reports	The Climb	E60	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	
ESPN	31	50	140	206	(430) Mina. ESPN BET Live (L) (N)	SportCtr	College Baseball St. Louis Cardinals at Los Angeles Dodgers From Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles. (N)	Cardinals Pregame Post (L) (N)	NHL Hockey Calgary Flames at St. Louis Blues From St. Louis, Mo. (L) (N)	MLB Baseball Chicago Cubs at Texas Rangers From Globe Life Field in Arlington, Texas. (L) (N)	SC Reports	The Climb	E60	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	
FSMW	33		418	671	Law & Order: SVU "Intoxicated"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Name"	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)	Adventure of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure) Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl (2003, Adventure)
USA	34	133	105	242	Naked and Afraid "Rumble in the Jungle"	Naked and Afraid "A Tagged One in Texas"	Naked and Afraid "Mile-High Clubbed"	Afraid Two teams of international survivalists converge in South Africa for the ultimate challenge.	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	
DISC	35	72	182	278	Naked and Afraid "Rumble in the Jungle"	Naked and Afraid "A Tagged One in Texas"	Naked and Afraid "Mile-High Clubbed"	Afraid Two teams of international survivalists converge in South Africa for the ultimate challenge.	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	My 600-Lb. Life "Supersized: Ab's Journey" (N)	
TLC	36	73	183	280	Little People "Swamp People" "The Final Battle"	Swamp People "Enemy Transformed"	The First 48	Critical Minutes (N)	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	Shifting Gears (2024, Romance) Tyler Hynes, Kristin Booth, Katherine Barrrell.	
HST	38	174	120	269	First 48 "Fatal Mistake"	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	Two Tickets to Paradise (2022, Romance) Ryan Paevey, Mary-Margaret Humes, Ashley Williams.	
ABC	39	134	118	265	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	
SYFY	41	135	122	244	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	
TBS	43	130	139	247	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	
TVT	44	131	138	245	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	
AMC	45		131	254	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	
COM	47		107	249	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	
WGN	48		150	219	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	
FS1	53		307	307	W																

# NCAA President urges states to ban prop bets on college athletes

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP College Sports Writer

In the midst of March Madness, the NCAA is pushing for states with legal wagering on sporting events to ban prop bets on college athletes.

"Sports betting issues are on the rise across the country with prop bets continuing to threaten the integrity of competition and leading to student-athletes getting harassed," NCAA President Charlie Baker said Wednesday in statement posted on social media. "The NCAA has been working with states to deal with these threats and many are responding by banning college prop bets."

Prop bets — short for proposition bets — allow gamblers to wager on statistics a player will accumulate during a game rather than the final score.

Baker's statement came two days after the NBA confirmed it opened an investigation into unusual betting patterns surrounding props involving Toronto Raptors forward Jontay Porter. The Raptors said Porter would miss his third consecutive game Wednesday for personal reasons.

Some NBA players and coaches have been outspoken recently about prop bets and how gamblers react when numbers fail to hit. Indiana Pacers guard Tyrese Haliburton said his social media is filled with complaints and Cleveland Cavaliers coach J.B. Bickerstaff revealed he received threats from gamblers last season and reported it to the NBA.

Earlier this month, U.S. Integrity, a company used by many professional sports leagues and college conferences to monitor betting activity, flagged a Temple regular-season men's basketball game for wagering irregularities.

The NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments are a huge draw for gamblers. The American Gaming Association estimates \$2.7 billion will be bet this year on March Madness through legal sportsbooks.

Several states including Colorado, Arizona, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania and Oregon have rules prohibiting prop betting on college athletes that predate the NCAA's recent push. Others such as Illinois, Connecticut and Iowa do not allow college athlete prop bets involving in-state teams.

Kansas, Michigan, Louisiana and Wyoming allow bettors to place prop bets on college athletes regardless of where they play.

The NCAA already has made some progress this year toward eliminating prop bets on college athletes. Gambling regulators in Ohio, Vermont and Maryland have removed prop betting on college athletes online and in sportsbooks. Baker and his staff are reaching out to regulators in other states to encourage similar bans.

The Ohio Casino Control Commission said last month in granting the NCAA's request that prop bets last year on NCAA athletes with sports gaming operators in the state brought in approximately \$104.6 million, which accounted for 1.35% of the total amount wagered. Prop bets on college athletes accounted for about 2.2% of wagers.

Chris Cylke, senior vice president for government relations for the American Gaming Association, said banning legal wagering on college player propositions would drive more bettors to illegal and off-



shore sportsbooks.

"While it is unclear how this advances our shared goal of reducing athlete harassment, we do know that driving customers to illegal channels will ultimately hinder the ability to monitor for and detect potential suspicious betting behavior," Cylke said in a statement provided to The Associated Press.

The number of states that now allow some form of sports betting has grown to 38, plus the District of Columbia. Thirty states and the nation's capital allow online wagering.

Companies that monitor sports betting for irregularities have warned college sports administrators that prop betting on unpaid athletes elevates the potential risk for a scandal because players can more easily influence their own performance than the overall outcome of a game.

The NCAA conducted a survey after last year's basketball tournaments that found 58% of 18- to 22-year-olds are gambling.

Baker has said the proliferation of legal sports gambling has increased stress on college athletes.

"All that chatter about who's playing, who's not playing. Who's sore, who's not sore. What's going on with the team you're playing? What do you think your chances are? Which is just classic chatter, where — in a world where people are betting — takes on a whole new consequence," Baker said in January before his address to membership at the NCAA convention.

The NCAA has partnered with a data science company called Signify, which also

works with the NBA Players Association and WNBA, to identify online threats made to athletes during championship events that are linked to wagering.

"Basically tracks ugly, nasty stuff that's being directed at people who are participating in their tournaments and we'd use it the same way," Baker said in January. "And it can shut it down or basically block it. And in some cases even track back to where it came from."

In October, the NCAA announced it would be advocating for state legislators to update laws to crack down on harassment of athletes, coaches and game officials and bolster integrity protections.

In West Virginia, NCAA officials worked with lawmakers to pass a bill that would allow betting regulators to ban people from wagering in the state online or at sportsbooks who have been found to have harassed players, coaches, or officials online or in person. The bill is awaiting a signature from Gov. Jim Justice.

San Diego State men's basketball coach Brian Dutcher said he is concerned about how all the negative feedback impacts athletes' mental health.

"People complaining about how they're playing, missing shots, and they just get beat up constantly," said Dutcher, whose team is playing in Boston in the Sweet 16 this week.

Illinois guard Dra Gibbs-Lawhorn said he encourages his teammates to ignore the criticism.

"I never really am on social media but in person someone would be like, 'I'm going to bet the under on you.' In that moment you can't say anything," Gibbs-Lawhorn said. "So I'm just like, 'OK, good job.' Like, I don't know what you want me to say."

## DeRozan, Vucevic lead Bulls past Pacers to end 3-game losing skid

By MATT CARLSON  
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan scored 27 points and Nikola Vucevic added 22 with 12 rebounds to lead the Chicago Bulls past the Indiana Pacers 125-99 on Wednesday night to snap a three-game skid.

Coby White had 18 points to help Chicago take the season series from Indiana 3-1.

Andrew Nembhard scored 18 points for the Pacers, who concluded a five-game trip at 3-2 and remained in sixth place in the Eastern Conference.

Chicago limited Pascal Siakam to 14 points after the two-time All-Star had scored 25 or more in four straight games and 36 and 31 in his last two, respectively. The Pacers were held to 40% shooting, while the Bulls shot 50% in an often sloppy game.

Ayo Dosunmu scored 17 on 7-for-11 shooting, including 3 for 5 on 3-pointers. Andre Drummond added 14 points and 11 rebounds off the bench for Chicago, ninth in the East.

The Bulls took charge late in the second quarter by outscoring and outmuscling the Pacers 22-6 in the final 6:24 to build a 64-43 halftime lead. Chicago shot 55.6%, while



Indiana lagged at 35% in the first half.

Vucevic led the way with 15 points in the half and helped spark the surge with 7-for-11 shooting. Dosunmu had 11 points in the half.

Indiana scored the first seven points in the second half to start a comeback that narrowed the Bulls' lead to 71-64 with just over four

minutes left in the third quarter when T.J. McConnell hit a pair of free throws. The Pacers didn't pull closer than seven, however.

DeRozan, Drummond and Dosunmu helped thwart the Pacers with timely baskets that wrested back momentum late in the third and made it 87-74 after the quarter.

Chicago pulled away in the fourth. Bulls coach Billy Donovan said injured Zach LaVine (right foot surgery), Patrick Williams (left foot surgery) and Lonzo Ball (left knee surgery) could be in Chicago on Monday when the Bulls host Atlanta, then continue rehabbing in town with the team the rest of the season.

### UP NEXT

Pacers: Host the Los Angeles Lakers on Friday.  
Bulls: At Brooklyn on Friday.

## High School Calendar

**THURSDAY, MARCH 28**  
No events scheduled.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 29**  
BASEBALL: Norwell at Brownstown Central, 1 p.m. and vs. Evansville Central at Bloomington South High School, 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**  
BASEBALL: Norwell at Edgewood, 12:30 p.m.

**MONDAY, APRIL 1**  
No events scheduled.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2**  
BASEBALL: Norwell at South Adams, 5 p.m.; Bluff-

ton at New Haven, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Oak Hill, 5 p.m.

**SOFTBALL:** Bluffton at Eastbrook, 5:30 p.m.

**TRACK & FIELD (CO-ED):** Eastbrook at Bluffton, 5:30 p.m.

## Reds' Matt McLain has shoulder surgery, out for extended period

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Reds second baseman Matt McLain last played in a spring training game on March 17 and was hurt the following day while diving for a ball during a workout. Reds manager David Bell revealed the injury on March 20, the day Cincinnati acquired infielder Santiago Espinal from Toronto.

McLain hit .290 with 16 homers, 50 RBIs and 14 stolen bases last year, finishing fifth in NL Rookie of the Year voting.

ment Wednesday.

The 24-year-old McLain last played in a spring training game on March 17 and was hurt the following day while diving for a ball during a workout. Reds manager David Bell revealed the injury on March 20, the day Cincinnati acquired infielder Santiago Espinal from Toronto.

McLain hit .290 with 16 homers, 50 RBIs and 14 stolen bases last year, finishing fifth in NL Rookie of the Year voting.

## News-Banner Scoreboard

### BASKETBALL

#### High School

#### Boys' Basketball State Final Saturday, March 30

**1A**  
Bethesa Christian (23-7) vs. Fort Wayne Canterbury (18-9), 10:30 a.m.

**2A**  
Brownstown Central (27-4) vs. Wapahani (26-2)

**3A**  
Scottsburg (24-5) vs. South Bend St. Joseph (20-9), 6 p.m.

**4A**  
Ben Davis (23-5) vs. Fishers (28-1), 8:15 p.m.

#### College

##### Men's Basketball Scores

**Wednesday, Mar. 27**  
Norfolk St. 75, Fort Wayne 67  
Seattle 77, High Point 67

##### Women's Basketball Scores

No Games.

#### NBA

##### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Boston	57	15	.792	—
x-New York	44	28	.611	13
x-Philadelphia	39	34	.534	18½
Brooklyn	28	45	.384	29½
Toronto	23	50	.315	34½

##### Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Orlando	42	30	.583	—
x-Miami	39	33	.542	3
Atlanta	33	39	.458	9
Charlotte	18	54	.250	24
Washington	14	59	.192	28½

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	46	26	.639	—
x-Cleveland	44	29	.603	2½
x-Indiana	41	33	.554	6
Chicago	35	38	.479	11½
Detroit	12	61	.164	34½

##### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	44	28	.611	—
Dallas	43	29	.597	1
Houston	36	35	.507	7½
Memphis	24	49	.329	20½
San Antonio	16	56	.222	28

##### Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Denver	51	21	.708	—
x-Oklahoma City	50	21	.704	½
x-Minnesota	50	22	.694	1
Utah	29	43	.403	22
Portland	19	54	.260	32½

##### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	45	27	.625	—
Sacramento	42	30	.583	3
Phoenix	42	30	.583	3
L.A. Lakers	41	32	.562	4½
Golden State	38	34	.528	7

x-clinched playoff spot  
z-clinched conference

Oklahoma City 119, New Orleans 112

L.A. Lakers 128, Milwaukee 124, 20T

Dallas 132, Sacramento 96

**Wednesday's Games**  
Charlotte 118, Cleveland 111

Golden State 101, Orlando 93  
Brooklyn 122, Washington 119, OT

New York 145, Toronto 101  
Atlanta 120, Portland 106

L.A. Clippers 108, Philadelphia 107  
Minnesota 106, Detroit 91

Chicago 125, Indiana 99  
L.A. Lakers 136, Memphis 124

Houston at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
San Antonio at Utah, late

Phoenix at Denver, late

**Thursday's Games**  
Boston at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

Milwaukee at New Orleans, 8 p.m.

**Friday's Games**  
Detroit at Washington, 7 p.m.

Golden State at Charlotte, 7 p.m.  
L.A. Clippers at Orlando, 7 p.m.

L.A. Lakers at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
Chicago at Brooklyn, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.  
New York at San Antonio, 8 p.m.

Phoenix at Oklahoma City, 8 p.m.  
Portland at Miami, 8 p.m.

Minnesota at Denver, 9 p.m.  
Houston at Utah, 9:30 p.m.

Dallas at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

**Saturday's Games**  
Boston at New Orleans, 5 p.m.

Memphis at Orlando, 7 p.m.  
Milwaukee at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

### HOCKEY

#### NHL

##### Tuesday's Games

Boston 4, Florida 3  
Pittsburgh 4, Carolina 1

Washington 4, Detroit 3, OT  
N.Y. Rangers 6, Philadelphia 5, OT

New Jersey 6, Toronto 3  
Nashville 5, Vegas 4, OT

Edmonton 4, Winnipeg 3, OT  
Chicago 3, Calgary 1

Montreal 2, Colorado 1  
Seattle 4, Anaheim 0

Arizona 6, Columbus 2  
Dallas 6, San Jose 3

##### Wednesday's Games

Ottawa 6, Buffalo 2

##### Tampa Bay 3, Boston 1

Thursday's Games  
Chicago at Ottawa, 7 p.m.

Columbus at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at Florida, 7 p.m.

Philadelphia at Montreal, 7 p.m.

Washington at Toronto, 7 p.m.

Detroit at Carolina, 7:30 p.m.

Calgary at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

San Jose at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Vegas at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.

Los Angeles at Edmonton, 9 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers at Colorado, 9 p.m.

Anaheim at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Dallas at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Nashville at Arizona, 10 p.m.

##### Friday's Games

New Jersey at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

##### Saturday's Games

Golden State 113, Miami 92

#### DETROIT AT FLORIDA, 12:30 p.m.

Vegas at Minnesota, 3:30 p.m.  
Anaheim at Edmonton, 4 p.m.

N.Y. Rangers at Arizona, 6 p.m.  
Nashville at Colorado, 6 p.m.

Boston at Washington, 7 p.m.  
Carolina at Montreal, 7 p.m.

Chicago at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.  
N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay, 7 p.m.

Ottawa at Winnipeg, 7 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Columbus, 7 p.m.

Toronto at Buffalo, 7 p.m.  
Dallas at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Los Angeles at Calgary, 10 p.m.

### BASEBALL

#### MLB

**Tuesday's Games**  
No games scheduled

**Wednesday's Games**  
No games scheduled

**Thursday's Games**  
L.A. Angels at Baltimore, 3:05 p.m.

Detroit at Chicago White Sox, 4:10 p.m.

Minnesota at Kansas City, 4:10 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees at Houston, 4:10 p.m.

Toronto at Tampa Bay, 4:10 p.m.

Chicago Cubs at Texas, 7:35 p.m.

Cleveland at Oakland, 10:07 p.m.

Boston at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.

**National League**

**Tuesday's Games**  
No games scheduled

**Wednesday's Games**  
No games scheduled

**Thursday's Games**  
Milwaukee at N.Y. Mets, 1:10 p.m.

Atlanta at Philadelphia, 3:05 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Miami, 4:10 p.m.

San Francisco at San Diego, 4:10 p.m.

St. Louis at L.A. Dodgers, 4:10 p.m.

Washington at Cincinnati, 4:10 p.m.

Chicago Cubs at Texas, 7:35 p.m.

Colorado at Arizona, 10:10 p.m.

**TRANSACTIONS**

**Wednesday's Transactions**  
**BASEBALL**  
Major League Baseball  
MLB — Announced a unanimous approval on the sale of the Baltimore Orioles to a new ownership group led by control person David Rubenstein.

**National League**  
CINCINNATI REDS — Placed CB T.J. Friedl and SS Matt McLain on the 10-day IL. Recalled OF Bubba Thompson from Louisville (IL). Placed RHP Ian Gibaut and LHPs Nick Lodolo, Sam Moll, Brandon Williamson and Alex Young on the 15-day IL, retroactive to March 25.

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Agreed to terms with C Will Smith on a 10-year contract.



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Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

### King Classic Sudoku

						8	5	
9	6		4	2			7	
1					5		2	
4					6	9		
	8	2	1					
	9					7	2	5
2	5		9		6	4		
		1					9	2
8	4	9			5	1	6	

Difficulty: ★★★

3/28

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## Lottery Numbers

**Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 09-17-19-38-42

**Lotto Plus** — 01-02-15-25-28-31

**Cash4Life** — 02-34-38-43-51, Cash Ball: 01

**Quick Draw Midday** — 05-06-07-08-10-14-16-20-25-27-35-42-43-49-50-51-54-60-64-68, BE: 27

**Daily Three-Midday** — 05-00-05, SB: 05

**Daily Three-Evening** — 00-06-00, SB: 04

**Daily Four-Midday** — 03-05-07-05, SB: 05

**Daily Four-Evening** — 03-02-09-07, SB: 04

**Quick Draw Evening** — 02-06-07-09-22-29-34-36-37-38-44-47-49-50-53-57-58-66-76-80, BE: 29

**Hoosier Lotto** — 15-25-26-33-41-46

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$20 million

**POWERBALL**  
37-46-57-60-66 Powerball: 08; Power Play: 2X

## Public Sale Calendar

**MARCH 23-30 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Sandra McCay and others, seller.** 2007 Dodge Caliber SXT sedan, 1999 Ford F250 with dump bed, 2013 12' utility trailer, primitives, Turn of the Century cast iron riding horse, quilts, large qty. of crocks, antique furniture, Fenton, Carnival and other glassware. Preview: March 21, March 28 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 816 S. 11th Street, Decatur, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

**BIDDING STARTS CLOSING APRIL 4 STARTING AT 6 p.m. EST - Joann Groves, Anita Miller & Veda Ewart POA, owner.** 6 p.m.: 2,132 sf, 4 bedroom, 1 bath, partial basement, 2-car attached garage, sitting on .4 acre city lot, South Adams Community School, Wabash Township, Adams County. 6:30 p.m.: Furniture, household items, cast iron pans, lots of collectibles, dishes, Zippo lighters & more! Preview March 25, 5-6 p.m., 230 High Street, Geneva. Pick up April 5, 1-5 p.m. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**APRIL 7-14 - (Online Only Auction) - Unique Blue Bar and Grill (Formerly Stag Bar), seller.** Ongoing needs. Outstanding collection of beer signs, neon signs, beer taps, collectibles, tools, much more. Preview: April 4 and April 11 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 205 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, <http://www.steffengrp.com>, 260-824-3006.

**APRIL 8-APRIL 15 - (Online Only Auction) - Fort Wayne Community Schools, seller.** Excess needs of FWCS Transportation Department. Mechanic and shop equipment, shelving, computer monitors and electronics, office furniture, parts washer, air compressor, much more. Preview: April 10 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 6006 Ardmore Ave., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**APRIL 9 - 6 p.m. - Michael & Shelley Mossburg, owners.** Wells County Chamber of Commerce, 211 Water Street, Bluffton. Commercial real estate & land auction. Seven tracts to be sold in individual tracts or any combinations. Open house March 26, 5-6 p.m. or by appointment, 1600 W. Washington St., Bluffton. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**APRIL 12-APRIL 19 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller.** Huge jewelry and coin auction. Seven Rolex watches, fine diamond rings, necklaces, earrings, 14ct, 18ct and 22ct gold jewelry, sterling silver jewelry, 350+ Invicta luxury watches, coin collection. Auction preview: April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**APRIL 13-APRIL 20 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Dr. Hugh and Rhea Glidewell, seller.** Major personal property auction. 2008 Mercedes sedan, large quantity of high-end camera equipment, professional telescope, new high end his and her golf clubs and accessories, huge qty. of power and hand tools, modern furniture, sterling silver flatware set, Smith and Wesson revolver, jewelers safes, much more. Auction preview: April 14 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., 2926 Smith Rd., Fort Wayne, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**APRIL 20 - 10 a.m. - (Live Auction) - Marc and Valerie Hamman, seller.** 6530 S. 300 E., Hamilton, IN. Three lots adjacent to Hamilton Lake with 2 car 26'x28' garage. This is the perfect property to build a new home, extra storage and parking. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

## This Week's Garage Sales



**MOVING SALE** March 29, 30, 31: 9-5. 1010 W Wabash St. Furniture & antiques. 260-849-1844

**911 S OAK ST HUGE GARAGE SALE** Five families, Fri & Sat 8-5, 911 S. Oak St. Lots of clothes, women & mens. Name brands, Under Armour, Adidas, Buckle and Nike. Lots of bedding, lamps, sterling silver jewelry, pictures, shoes and lots of misc Apr. 03 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

**GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE** April 4 & 5, 9-5, April 6, 9-2, sack sale, Forgotten Children Worldwide, 650 N. Main Street, Bluffton. Avon collectibles, gently used clothes and shoes, toys, drop-leaf table, bar stools, flower girl dresses, luggage, crafts, home decor, double bed frame, jewelry, much more. Sale sponsored by AdamsWells Internet.

**ANNUAL MULTI FAMILY garage sale**, 614 Meadow Lane, Ossian, Fri., March 29, - Fri., April 5, 6 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat., April 6, 6 a.m.-?

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### Services

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## SUDOKU ANSWER

8	9	1	9	4	7	6	4	8
2	6	9	7	8	5	1	2	9
4	8	7	9	1	6	5	9	2
9	1	2	4	7	8	9	6	5
9	7	4	5	6	1	2	8	9
8	5	6	2	9	9	4	1	7
7	2	9	6	9	4	8	5	1
1	4	5	8	7	9	9	6	4
6	9	8	1	5	9	7	2	4

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## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

**THE WELLS COUNTY Prosecutor's Office** is looking to hire a person for an Investigator position. The position is a part-time county-paid position making \$21/hour. The investigator would be responsible for conducting criminal investigations and assisting the Prosecutor in preparing cases for trial. The investigator must be an effective communicator, be proficient with a computer, be able to work independently, and have the ability to be on 24-hour call for assistance at crime scenes. Interested persons should go to [wellscounty.org/prosecutor/](http://wellscounty.org/prosecutor/) for a more detailed description of this position. Send any resumes to the Wells County Prosecutor's Office, 102 West Market Street, Suite 405, Bluffton, IN 46714 or submit them by email to [prosecutor@wellscounty.org](mailto:prosecutor@wellscounty.org).



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## Help Wanted

**THE CITY OF Bluffton** Street Department is accepting applications for a Laborer/Truck Driver. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Applicants must possess and maintain a CDL License or obtain one within the time limit. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's office, 128 East Market St, Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at [www.blufftonindiana.net](http://www.blufftonindiana.net).

**WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE** is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and psychological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Application can be found on our website at [www.wellscountysheriff.com](http://www.wellscountysheriff.com). Once application is completed, details on the testing date and location will be emailed to the applicant. The application must be completed by April 20, 2024.

## FOR SALE

### Miscellaneous

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## Wanted to Buy

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# House Speaker Johnson is committed to advancing Ukraine aid

*But it will be a difficult task*

By **STEPHEN GROVES**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — For over a month, House Speaker Mike Johnson has sat on a funding package that would send desperately needed ammunition and weaponry to Ukraine, mulling how best to gain a grasp of what is expected to be a difficult lift in the House.

The Republican speaker has indicated he will attempt to push for approval of tens of billions in wartime funding for Ukraine, as well as Israel, once the House returns in April. Yet it will be perhaps his most difficult task since he took the speaker's gavel late last year.

Still, Johnson has waited to act at a time when Russia is renewing its missile attacks on Kyiv. In Ukraine's eastern regions, soldiers are running low on ammunition as they attempt to hold off a surge of Russian soldiers to the frontlines. European leaders and analysts are warning that the conflict could grow into a much larger clash that involves NATO allies and direct American military involvement if Russia prevails in Ukraine.

Johnson is facing dilemmas himself in Con-

gress. Should funding for Ukraine's government be loans or a typical grant? Should the \$95 billion package that the Senate approved for Ukraine, Israel and other allies be handled as one or broken into pieces? And how decisively should he push for the House to act when his own leadership position is being threatened?

Rep. Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called it "devastating" that the House has departed for a two-week break with the aid package left unresolved. He, along with many Democrats, called on Johnson to allow a vote on a Senate-approved bill.

"If you're serious about helping Ukraine, you just put the bill on the floor and let's vote -- let the House have its will," he said.

But hardline conservatives in the House, adamantly opposed to aid for Ukraine, are already frustrated with Johnson's willingness to work with Democrats to pass legislation — so much so that it could cost him his job. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, a far-right Republican from Georgia, has filed a motion to vacate Johnson as speak-

er and warned him not to put Ukraine funding on the House floor.

"He should not bring funding for Ukraine," Greene told reporters on the Capitol steps just after she filed the motion to vacate.

Meanwhile, an old guard of Republican defense hawks has put increasing pressure on Johnson to advance an aid package in some form. Most Democrats have indicated support for the Senate-passed legislation. However, a growing number of Democrats have raised concerns about Israel's deadly campaign in Gaza, and a significant number of them are expected to oppose any funding for offensive weaponry for Israel.

The dynamic leaves Johnson with a shifting and unpredictable House at a time when he will need to win broad, bipartisan support. Before becoming speaker, Johnson was deeply skeptical of approving funding for Ukraine and voted repeatedly against it. But now, occupying one of the most powerful positions in Washington, Johnson is poised to become a crucial ally for Kyiv at a time when America's commitments abroad are in doubt.

"We understand the role

that America plays in the world. We understand the importance of sending a strong signal to the world that we stand by our allies and we cannot allow terrorists and tyrants to march through the globe," Johnson said.

Fond of quoting former President Ronald Reagan, Johnson has repeatedly cited "peace through strength" as one of his guiding principles. In private, he has indicated he will work towards a vote on Ukraine aid once the House returns in April,

according to two people who discussed the private conversations on the condition of anonymity. But he has revealed little about how he intends to do it.

One idea Johnson has raised is splitting the funding for Ukraine and Israel into separate votes, which could allow him to navigate the fractures in support for the two countries between Republicans and Democrats.

Senior Republicans are also working on a package that would loan Ukraine

money to keep its government operating. Most of the money in the package would be allocated for purchasing weaponry from U.S. defense manufacturers, then sending them to Ukraine. The group of GOP defense hawks has also advanced legislation called the Rebuilding Economic Prosperity and Opportunity for Ukrainians, or REPO Act, which would allow the U.S. to tap frozen Russian central bank assets to compensate Ukraine for damages from the invasion.

# A faster spinning Earth may cause timekeepers to subtract a second from world clocks

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**  
AP Science Writer

Earth's changing spin is threatening to toy with our sense of time, clocks and computerized society in an unprecedented way — but only for a second.

For the first time in history, world timekeepers may have to consider subtracting a second from our clocks in a few years because the planet is rotating a tad faster than it used to. Clocks may have to skip a second — called a "negative leap second" — around 2029, a study in the journal Nature said Wednesday.

"This is an unprecedented situation and a big deal," said study lead author Duncan Agnew, a geophysicist at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego. "It's not a huge change in the Earth's rotation that's going to lead to some catastrophe or anything, but it is something notable. It's yet another indication that we're in a very unusual time."

Ice melting at both of Earth's poles has been counteracting the planet's burst of speed and is likely to have delayed this global second of reckoning by about three years, Agnew said.

"We are headed toward a negative leap second," said Dennis McCarthy, retired director of time for the U.S. Naval Observatory who wasn't part of the study. "It's a matter of when."

It's a complicated situation that involves, physics, global power politics, climate change, technology

and two types of time.

Earth takes about 24 hours to rotate, but the key word is about.

For thousands of years, the Earth has been generally slowing down, with the rate varying from time to time, said Agnew and Judah Levine, a physicist for the time and frequency division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

The slowing is mostly caused by the effect of tides, which are caused by the pull of the moon, McCarthy said.

This didn't matter until atomic clocks were adopted as the official time standard more than 55 years ago. Those didn't slow.

That established two versions of time — astronomical and atomic — and they didn't match. Astronomical time fell behind atomic time by 2.5 milliseconds every day. That meant the atomic clock would say it's midnight and to Earth it was midnight a fraction of a second later, Agnew said.

Those daily fractions of seconds added up to whole seconds every few years. Starting in 1972, international timekeepers decided to add a "leap second" in June or December for astronomical time to catch up to the atomic time, called Coordinated Universal Time or UTC. Instead of 11:59 and 59 seconds turning to midnight, there would be another second at 11:59 and 60 seconds. A negative leap second would go from 11:59 and 58 seconds directly to midnight, skipping 11:59:59.

Between 1972 and 2016,

27 separate leap seconds were added as Earth slowed. But the rate of slowing was tapering off.

"In 2016 or 2017 or maybe 2018, the slowdown rate had slowed down to the point that the Earth was actually speeding up," Levine said.

Earth's speeding up because its hot liquid core — "a large ball of molten fluid" — acts in unpredictable ways, with eddies and flows that vary, Agnew said.

Agnew said the core has been triggering a speedup for about 50 years, but rapid melting of ice at the poles since 1990 masked that effect. Melting ice shifts Earth's mass from the poles to the bulging center, which slows the rotation much like a spinning ice skater slows when extending their arms out to their sides, he said.

## Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

<b>Genesis Pest Services</b> genesispestservices.com	<b>MR. KOOL</b> HEATING AND COOLING mrkoolheatingandair.com	<b>DAZEY'S SUPPLY</b> dazeys.com/bluffton-in
<b>INDIANA FARM BUREAU INSURANCE</b> Bluffton Office   (260) 824-2234 infarmbureau.com	<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR</b> SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	<b>Daniel's JEWELERS</b> daniels-jewelers.net
<b>ABOVE &amp; BEYOND</b> Vehicle Reconditioning abovebeyondrecon.com	<b>WELLS COUNTY 4-H GROWS HERE</b> extension.purdue.edu/wells	<b>3 RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org
<b>Myers FUNERAL HOMES</b> myersfuneralhomes.com	<b>KELLY'S COLLISION CENTER, INC.</b> 820 W. Washington Street, Bluffton kellysautocollision.com	<b>THE GEM FAMILY</b> thegemfamily.com
<b>Riverstone DENTAL</b> riverstonedental.net	<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com	<b>MOSER &amp; SON</b> Heating & Air Conditioning 219 E. Perry St. Bluffton moserandsonheatingandair.com
<b>INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS</b> AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING icav.us	<b>HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP</b> hidaymotors.com	<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com
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